

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, in the conference room located at 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks, at 6:00 pm.

Present: Edward Marks, Vincent Yanni Jr., Maureen Crick Owen, Warren Spencer.

Absent: PJ Yochum, Patrick Barczak.

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggiano.

Public: Richmond Jones

Public Participation:

Mr. Richmond Jones came before the board to present a plan and vision for a Sandy Hook Memorial Park. Mr. Jones is currently attending various town boards and commissions to present his vision. Mr. Jones was very involved in the 911 Memorial and Ground Zero Museum. Mr. Jones' vision is to have a park like setting memorial and handed out a map of proposed plan. The plan included but not limited to contain a: marathon track, plaza and fountains, amphitheater, stage, playgrounds, and plantings. Mr. Jones went on to explain to the commission that his proposed plan is very flexible. Mr. Marks stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission is very supportive of the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Committee and is willing to work with anyone affiliated with SHPMC.

Acceptance of Minutes

Motion:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes from May 10, 2016 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- Newtown High School Pool scoreboard: A purchase order for a new pool scoreboard shows a price of \$13,275.00, which includes shipping and installation.

Motion:

Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen made a motion to approve the utilization of Parks and Recreation surcharge money, in the amount of \$13,275.00, to purchase a scoreboard for the Newtown High School Pool, with the understanding that any other costs beyond the \$13,275.00 would be the responsibility of the Board of Education; Also, that the shared use of the Newtown High School pool scoreboard be by Parks and Recreation for programs and Newtown High School. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Old Business Continued:

- Amy Mangold and Maureen Crick Owen are on the Community Center advisory committee. The two met with a team NSA that was hired by the town to help implement the management of the Community Center business development. Ms. Mangold and Ms. Owen Crick also have a scheduled conference call on Friday, June 17, 2016 to discuss aquatics at the community center.

New Business:

- Parks and Recreation Surcharge Account Review: tabled to until next meeting

Correspondence: Ms. Mangold received an email regarding Pickle ball and how great it is that the Town has installed and implemented courts for use. It was suggested that Parks and Recreation put a court or playing area on the Fairfield Hills campus. It could be as simple as painting lines on pavement.

Chairman's Report:

Edward Marks, Chairman of Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission:

- Mr. Marks attended a town facilities meeting regarding schools. Dr. Erardi has assigned 3 teams to study different outlooks for town schools in the future. According to Dr. Erardi there is a big decrease in the number of students entering the school system for 2016-2017 year. Mr. Marks stated that this could have an overall impact on Parks and Recreation surcharges and activities. Mr. Marks stated that P&R needs to take this reduction into consideration when thinking about future priorities.
- Thomas DiNicola has resigned from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Linda Hess has expressed an interest in filling the vacant seat and is currently working with the Republican Town Committee. Mr. Marks is unsure of the time frame of the replacement of P&R commissioner.
- Mr. Marks, Ms. Mangold, Mr. Samuelson and Ms. Reggiano will be attending the Legislative Council on June 29, 2016 to present the Parks and Recreation master plan. Mr. Marks would like to discuss the list of priorities that the commission has for Parks and Recreation. Mr. Samuelson stated that the commission should acknowledge the change in demographics.

Director's Report:

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Mangold discussed the need for baseball field rules for the new fields, for example no sponsorship banners on new fields. (some of the rules would be grandfathered on the old fields)
- Ms. Mangold stated that with a full staff this summer, it is very evident in a positive way in both the office and out in the field. Ms. Mangold wanted to recognize Mr. Samuelson and Ms. Reggiano for doing a terrific job.
- Ms. Mangold stated that the dedication to the Lions Club on Saturday 11, 2016 at Orchard will was very nice and was attended by 7 to 8 Lions members, First Selectman Pat Llodra as well as 3 Commission members.
- Commissioner Vinny Yanni had sent Ms. Mangold info on park fees from other towns. P&R is finding that there is an increase for *non-resident* pool passes and *non-resident* permits. It was discussed that it is very important that people understand that they do need a *resident/non-resident* permit to visit the parks. There was discussion on perhaps a sign at the parks to explain this.
- Ms. Mangold explained to the commission that the Twenty Six bench fund is used up. The reasons for this are the cost of ordering plaques individually vs in bulk and outsourcing of the installation of benches on non-town owned property. Ms. Mangold stated that she would need up to \$2,500.00 to cover the costs of the remaining bench plaques and installation fees. Mr. Samuelson stated that there is a very old (50yr) cemetery account with some money in it. Ms. Mangold will talk to Director of Finance Bob Tait about using the funds from the old cemetery account. Another option would be to use funds from the Parks and Recreation Gift Fund.

- Commissioner Maureen Owen Crick inquired about the status of the Board of Realtors donation to the Fruit Trail. Ms. Mangold responded that the board of Realtors wouldn't have the donation until after July 1, 2016.
- The planting of the *Fruit Trail* was successful because of the many volunteers that worked very hard all weekend to complete the job! (the weekend of June 11, 2016)
- Ms. Mangold stated that they are putting a plaque on a bench at Dickinson Park to honor Howard Lasher. Mr. Lasher was very involved in the past with the success of P&R summer camps, so much so that at one point it was called, *Camp Lash*.
- Ms. Mangold has been very busy with the Mad Dash, Senior Citizen Prom and implementation of the Butterfly Garden at Dickinson. Ms. Billie Cohen was in charge of supervising the United Way work day volunteers and did an amazing job.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

- Mr. Samuelson reported that spring sports are now ending, along with school and the park crew is very busy with starting summer work. That said, things are in pretty good shape overall.
- Tilled the Butterfly Garden areas at Dickinson Park for the United Way work day. The biggest challenge now is to replant what the kids are removing. The staff has been watering the garden regularly until the plants mature. Dickinson Park is in good shape and prepared for Day Camp.
- The planting beds at Treadwell Park have been weeded.
- Treadwell Pool is open for the season. They had to install a pressure regulation device due to the high pressure of the new Sandy Hook pump station and all is working well now. All pool house lock and handle issues have been repaired.
- The parking lot at Treadwell has been restriped and the area cut will be paved next week.
- One of our park employees, who is great at stone work, chiseled out a rock and attached the new Lions plaque. This was done in time for a dedication to the Lions Club for all their help.
- The parks staff has been busy at Fairfield Hills preparing for the annual Mad Dash.
- The staff has also been busy with prepping for the Fruit Trail and Trail relocation for Glander 3 field. They also installed 20 new signs on Fairfield Campus this past month.
- The construction of Glander 3 field is going well. They are currently slightly ahead of schedule. The tree clearing is complete, as well as Trail relocation, and the backstop main poles have been installed. Grading continues here with help from public works. Irrigation work will begin week of June 20, 2016.
- The field at Oakview is open and water conditioning injection system has been hooked up for the season.
- The fencing vandalism at Walnut Tree is being repaired next week.
- All facilities at Eichler's Cove are open and looking good. Some new beach sand really improved the looks of the area.
- The back fields at Newtown High School are in good shape. There has been some unauthorized sports groups using the facilities, but have yet to be identified.
- The American Legion Post #202 in Newtown, part of the American Legion in Bethel has requested to be considered as a Newtown based baseball team because of having more than 80% Newtown resident players. The team is requesting to move from a category D to a category C. (see: *Field Administration and Facility use Manual*). Right now the team is paying hourly for field time and would like to pay double surcharge instead. After much discussion, the commission left the decision to be up to the P&R staff. P&R staff has allowed this based on written documentation that they received from the American Legion.

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- Ms. Reggiano stated that 300 people participated in the annual Mad Dash event.
- Rooster Run to be held on Saturday, June 18, 2016. Ms. Reggiano stated that the Newtown Scholarship Committee would be in attendance to volunteer.
- Camp Counselor training is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2016.
- Pool and Beach are open for the season. Four hundred pool passes have been sold so far this season.
- The new Waterfront Director, Carolyn Fagerholm is doing a terrific job.

- The Senior Citizens Prom was attended by 35 to 40 people. The feedback has been very positive. Everyone had a great time. The party included food, music, dancing, photo booth, and King & Queen. The High School Fusion group, culinary and Ben's Lighthouse partnered with Parks and Recreation to create a multi-generational effort.

Commissioners Out and About:

- Ms. Reggiano thanked Ed Marks and Maureen Owen Crick for attending and helping out with the Mad Dash.
- Ms. Maureen Owen Crick attended the Senior Citizen Prom.
- Mr. Marks, Ms. Crick Owen and Mr. Yanni attended the Lions Club dedication at Orchard Hill.

Motion:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Warren Spencer, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 6:00 pm at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

Submitted, Gabriella Chernoff, clerk